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(54) **Stable injectable paclitaxel composition**

Stabile injizierbare Paclitaxel Lösung

Composition injectable stable de paclitaxel

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to a solution of paclitaxel having improved stability.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Paclitaxel is a compound extracted from the bark of a western yew, *Taxus brevifolia* and known for its antineoplastic activity. It is described for example in The Merck Index, Eleventh Edition 1989, monograph 9049.

[0003] In 1977, paclitaxel was chosen for development as an antineoplastic agent because of its unique mechanism of action and good cytotoxic activity against IP implanted D16 melanoma and the human X-1 mammary tumor xenograft.

[0004] Paclitaxel is believed to function as a mitotic spindle poison and as a potent inhibitor of cell replication in vitro. Other mitotic spindle points (colchicine and podophyllotoxin) inhibit microtubule assembly. Paclitaxel employs a different mechanism of action since it appears to shift the equilibrium of polymerization/depolymerization toward polymer assembly and to stabilize microtubules against depolymerization under conditions which would cause rapid disaggregation of microtubules. The interference with the polymerization/depolymerization cycle in cells appears to interfere with both the replication and migration of cells.

[0005] After extensive preclinical screening in mouse tumour models, paclitaxel entered clinical trials in 1983. Over the past few years, paclitaxel has demonstrated good response rates in treating both ovarian and breast cancer patients who were not benefiting from vinca alkaloid or cisplatin therapy. It has also shown encouraging results in patients with other types of cancer including lung, melanoma, lymphoma, head and neck.

[0006] For further information, reference may be made to the US National Cancer Institute's Clinical Brochure for Paclitaxel (Taxol®) revised July 1991, and papers presented at the Second National Cancer Institute Workshop on Taxol® and Taxus held in Alexandria, Virginia USA on September 23-24, 1992.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0007] It is a disadvantage of the known formulation that the paclitaxel therein degrades, with the result that the shelf life of the formulation is unsatisfactory, and there is therefore a need for a paclitaxel solution of improved stability.

[0008] Accordingly, in a general aspect the invention provides a solution consisting of paclitaxel ethanol, polyethoxylated castor oil and acid, said solution having a pH of 5 to 7. The pH of the solution has been adjusted into the range 5 to 7 by addition of an acid. Accordingly, in another general aspect the invention provides a method of producing a paclitaxel solution according to the

invention, said method comprising the addition of an acid to a solution consisting of paclitaxel, ethanol and polyethoxylated castor oil. Acids in the form of powders, for example citric acid, are preferred over those which contain water, for example sulfuric acid. The most preferred acid for use in accordance with the present invention is citric acid but a wide range of acids may be used including the following:

Citric acid - monohydrous
Citric acid - anhydrous
Citric acid - hydrous
Acetic acid
Formic acid
Ascorbic acid
Aspartic acid
Benzene sulphonic acid
Benzoic acid
Hydrochloric acid
Sulphuric acid
Phosphoric acid
Nitric acid
Tartaric acid
Diatrizoic acid
Glutamic acid
Lactic acid
Maleic acid
Succinic acid

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0009] Due to its limited solubility in water, paclitaxel is usually prepared and administered in a vehicle containing cremophor EL™ (a polyethoxylated castor oil which acts as a solubilizer) and ethanol. A commercially available solution supplied by Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) is formulated with these components and has a pH of 9.1.

[0010] As indicated above, the invention essentially teaches addition of an acid to a paclitaxel formulation to adjust its pH into the range 5 to 7.

[0011] In a preferred procedure adopted by the applicant, which it will be clearly understood is non-limiting, the following steps were carried out:

Mixing Instructions

SOLUTION 1

[0012] Citric acid was dissolved in absolute alcohol, using a ratio of 8mls of absolute alcohol to 1gram of citric acid, and the solution was stirred for fifteen (15) minutes.

SOLUTION 2

[0013] Cremophor EL® was weighed out into the main mixing vessel.

SOLUTION 3

[0014] Solution 1 was added to solution 2, and the container used for solution 2 was washed with a minimum quantity of absolute alcohol to ensure complete transfer of the citric acid. Solution 3 was mixed and bubbled with nitrogen for at least 15 minutes. The paclitaxel was weighed out and slurried using absolute alcohol, using a ratio of 8ml of absolute alcohol to 1gm of taxol. The slurried paclitaxel was added to solution 3 and the slurrying vessel was washed with a minimum quantity of absolute alcohol. Solution 3 was adjusted to 75% of required volume using absolute alcohol, and thoroughly stirred for at least 45 minutes until completely dissolved. Once completely dissolved, the volume was checked and made up as necessary with absolute alcohol and the final solution stirred for 5 minutes.

Example 1

[0015] A solution was prepared with the following formulation:

Formulation: (Sample 1)	
Cremophor EL®	0.5mL
Citric Acid (Anhydrous)	2.0mg
Paclitaxel	6.0mg
Absolute Alcohol to	1.0mL

The pH of this solution was determined as 6.1.

[0016] The stability of this sample was compared with a sample prepared by the formulation stated in the NCI Taxol Clinical brochure (as follows) which had a pH of 9.1. (Sample 2)

Sample 2	per mL
Paclitaxel	6.0mg
Cremophor EL®	0.5mL
Absolute Alcohol	to 1mL

The solutions were filled into clear type 1 glass 5mL vials and sealed with rubber bungs.

The solutions were stored at 40°C for 7 (seven) days and the stability results are shown in Table 1.

	Sample 1	Sample 2
pH	6.2	9.0
Potency	96.6	86.7
Major individual	0.3%	5.1% impurity
Total impurities	2.0%	12.2%

[0017] Clearly Sample 1 showed significantly increased stability over Sample 2.

Example 2

[0018] A solution was prepared with the following formulation:

Formulation: (Sample 3)	
Cremophor EL®	0.5mL
Paclitaxel	6.0mg
Absolute Ethanol	to 1mL

pH adjusted to 6.6 with 1.0M Acetic Acid.

[0019] The solution was filled into clear type I glass 5mL vials and sealed with rubber bungs.

[0020] The solution was stored at 40°C for 7 days.

[0021] The stability results obtained are compared to those seen with Sample 2.

	Sample 3	Sample 2
pH	6.7	9.0
Potency	97.5	86.7
Major individual	0.3%	5.1% impurity
Total impurities	2.3%	12.2%

[0022] Again the significantly superior stability of the formulation according to the invention (Sample 3) is evident.

[0023] It will be clearly understood that the invention in its general aspects is not limited to the specific details referred to hereinabove.

Claims

1. A solution consisting of paclitaxel, ethanol, polyethoxylated castor oil and acid, said solution having a pH of 5 to 7.
2. The solution of claim 1 wherein said ethanol is absolute ethanol.
3. The solution of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said polyethoxylated castor oil is cremophor EL™.
4. The solution of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, acetic acid, formic acid, ascorbic acid, aspartic acid, benzene sulfonic acid, benzoic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid, tartaric acid, diatrizoic acid, glutamic acid, lactic acid, maleic acid, and succinic acid.
5. The solution of claim 4 wherein said acid is citric acid.
6. The solution of claim 5 wherein said citric acid is anhydrous or hydrous citric acid.

7. The solution of claim 6 wherein said hydrous citric acid is monohydrous citric acid.
8. A method of producing a paclitaxel solution as defined in any one proceeding claim comprising the addition of an acid to a solution consisting of paclitaxel, ethanol and polyethoxylated castor oil.

4. Solution selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans laquelle ledit acide est choisi parmi le groupe consistant en l'acide citrique, l'acide acétique, l'acide formique, l'acide ascorbique, l'acide aspartique, l'acide benzène sulfonique, l'acide benzoïque, l'acide chlorhydrique, l'acide sulfurique, l'acide phosphorique, l'acide nitrique, l'acide tartrique, l'acide diatrizoïque, l'acide glutamique, l'acide lactique, l'acide maléique et l'acide succinique.

Patentansprüche

1. Lösung, bestehend aus Paclitaxel, Ethanol, polyethoxyliertem Rizinusöl und Säure, wobei die Lösung einen pH von 5 bis 7 hat.
2. Lösung nach Anspruch 1, worin das Ethanol absolutes Ethanol ist.

3. Lösung nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, worin das polyethoxylierte Rizinusöl Cremophor EL™ ist.

4. Lösung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, worin die Säure ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe bestehend aus Citronensäure, Essigsäure, Ameisensäure, Asparaginsäure, Benzolsulfonsäure, Benzoesäure, Chlorwasserstoffsäure, Schwefelsäure, Phosphorsäure, Salpetersäure, Weinsäure, Diatrizoesäure, Glutaminsäure, Milchsäure, Maleinsäure und Bernsteinsäure.

5. Lösung nach Anspruch 4, worin die Säure Citronensäure ist.

6. Lösung nach Anspruch 5, worin die Citronensäure wasserfreie oder wasserhaltige Citronensäure ist.

7. Lösung nach Anspruch 6, worin die wasserhaltige Citronensäure Citronensäure-Monohydrat ist.

8. Verfahren zum Herstellen einer Paclitaxellösung, wie sie in einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche definiert ist, umfassend die Zugabe einer Säure zu einer Lösung, bestehend aus Paclitaxel, Ethanol und polyethoxyliertem Rizinusöl.

5. Solution selon la revendication 4, dans laquelle ledit acide est l'acide citrique.
6. Solution selon la revendication 5, dans laquelle ledit acide citrique est l'acide citrique anhydre ou hydraté.
7. Solution selon la revendication 6, dans laquelle ledit acide citrique hydraté est l'acide citrique monohydrate.
8. Méthode de production d'une solution de paclitaxel tel que définie selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant l'addition d'un acide à une solution consistant en paclitaxel, l'éthanol et l'huile de castor polyéthoxylée.

Revendications

1. Une solution consistant en paclitaxel, éthanol, huile de castor polyéthoxylée et acide, ladite solution ayant un pH compris entre 5 et 7.
2. Solution selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle ledit éthanol est de l'éthanol absolu.
3. Solution selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle ladite huile de castor polyéthoxylée est le cremophor EL™.